



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: W-0

March 27, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40, ANTELOPE VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION STUDY TO ADDRESS ARSENIC AND  
CHROMIUM LEVELS IN DISTRICT PRODUCTION WELLS  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

As the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley:

1. Approve the District's participation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in conducting a groundwater contamination investigation to address arsenic and chromium levels in District production wells.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to sign a joint funding agreement with the USGS to perform the investigation at an estimated cost of \$282,000 to the District.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to issue warrants to the USGS, based upon invoices from the USGS, in an amount not to exceed \$282,000.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In January 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a new standard for arsenic concentration in drinking water that requires public water supplies to reduce the level of arsenic by January 2006. In addition, the State Department of Health Services (DHS), which currently requires the monitoring of Chromium VI in drinking water supplies, will adopt a Maximum Contaminant Level for Chromium VI by January 2004.

The purpose of the proposed investigation is to study arsenic and chromium concentration levels in water supply wells for the District and identify mitigative measures that will reduce these levels to meet the new EPA and DHS requirements. The data collected during the investigation will also be used in the design of new wells.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This joint funding agreement meets the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Fiscal Responsibility and Organizational Effectiveness. The USGS has significant expertise in the field and the patent for the equipment required to complete the work. The completion of the investigation will allow the District to continue to provide services to the public in a responsive manner.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The overall cost of the study to be conducted over three years is \$486,000. The District's cost for the project is \$282,000. Sufficient funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 budget for the District's Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund. Funding for the remaining \$204,000 will be available through federal matching funds from the USGS.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Upon your approval, the Director of Public Works or his designee will sign a joint funding agreement with the USGS to perform the study at an estimated cost of \$282,000 to the District.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

This project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15306, Class 6, of the California Environmental Quality Act Statutes and Guidelines.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This project will potentially improve water quality for domestic water service to the residents of the District.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return two adopted copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

RG:nm  
BDL2133

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel